Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00289 131513Z ACTION NEA-10

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FOR NEA/RA AND IO/OIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CENTO, AORG, ABUD

SUBJECT: CENTO 1976-1977 BUDGET

REF: (A) STATE 3070, (B) ANKARA 9504, (C) ANKARA 9500

1. AT BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (BAC) MEETING JANUARY 13, CENTO SECRETARIAT PRESENTED REVISED BUDGET FIGURES FOR 1976-77, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT 15 PERCENT COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE (REFTELS B AND C), 13.2 PERCENT DEVALUATION OF BRITISH POUND IN NOVEMBER 1976, AND SEVERAL MODEST INCREASES IN MINOR BUDGETARY ITEMS (E.G., OVERTIME FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL'S DRIVER, EXPENSES FOR MOVING SECRETARY-GENERAL TO NEW RESIDENCE). TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET NOW STANDS AT POUNDS 747,934 WHICH REPRESENTS THOROUGH, LINE-BY-LINE VETTING OF SECRETARIAT REQUESTS. DURING BAC REVIEW PROCESS SIGNIFICANT CUTS WERE MADE IN ALLOCATIONS FOR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, TRAVEL, AND CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS. ONLY REMAINING BUDGET ITEM NOT DEFINITIVELY SETTLED IS COST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RECEPTION WHICH HE WILL GIVE IN TEHRAN AT TIME OF APRIL MINISTERIAL: PRESENT ALLOCATIN IS POUNDS 750 WHICH MAY BE INCREASED TO BETWEEN POUNDS 1000 AND 1500 DEPENDING ON COST ESTIMATES WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED BY IRANIAN DELEGATE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00289 131513Z

HOPEFULLY IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. BAC MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR BUDGET OF POUNDS 747,934 PLUS SMALL INCREASE IN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATION ALLOCATION NOTED ABOVE. TURKISH AND IRANIAN DELEGATES HAVE EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF FOREGOING BUDGET FIGURE (SUBJECT TO FINAL

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES AT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 31), AND UK REP HAS RECOMMENDED THAT LONDON APPROVE BUDGET FIGURE UP TO POUNDS 750,000. (FYI, UK REP BACKED OFF FROM EARLIER POUNDS 610,000 TARGET FIGURE BECAUSE, APART FROM 15 PERCENT INCREASE FOR COST-OF-LIVING AND 13.2 PERCENT INCREASE FOR DEVALUATION, OTHER INCREASES WERE SO MINOR NOT TO WARRANT WITHHOLDING BUDGET APPROVAL BEYOND THE THREE AND ONE HALF MONTHS ALREADY CONSUMED FOR BAC REVIEW.) IN OUR VIEW, IT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT APPEAR THAT ADDITIONAL, MEANINGFUL SAVINGS IN BUDGET ARE POSSIBLE. CENTO BUDGET DIRECTOR TOLD BAC THAT NO REPEAT NO SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS ARE ANTICIPATED BEFORE END OF FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 30, 1977.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE CENTO BUDGET OF POUNDS 747,934 PLUS SMALL REPRESENTATION INCREASE NOT REPEAT NOT TO EXCEED POUNDS 749,000. BAC CHAIRMAN WILL POLL DELEGATES ON JANUARY 19 TO DETERMINE WHETHER INSTRUCTIONS ON ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET FIGURE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM CAPITALS. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENTS' APPROVAL/COMMENTS BY COB JANUARY 18. MACOMBER

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